REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **23 December 2005**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-35. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-14, 16-18, 21-24, 26-28, and 31-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Cobb (WO 00/67074 A1, hereinafter "Cobb").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-14, 16-18, 21-24, 26-28, and 31-35 were rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a) Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 31-33 to include a corresponding *else* clause for the *if* statements. These amendments find support in FIG. 7 and page 12, lines 17-19 of the instant application. Applicant respectfully points out that that for the rest of the *if* statements, a person with ordinary skill in the art would understand that the *if* statement needs no alternative. For example, claim 2 defines a condition where the target cell is similar. It is obvious from the claim that if the condition is not met, the target cell is not similar.

b) Applicant respectfully points out that there is no claim element for a process of "determining" a target cell. How the target cell is determined is immaterial to the claims and a person of ordinary skill in the art knows how to select a target cell for analysis because selecting a target cell to be analyzed is common practice in the art. Additionally, Applicant respectfully points out that the claims cover the case of the first target cell that is considered. It is obvious that in this case there are no preceding cells for comparison; therefore, the step of

"determining if the target cell is similar to a preceding cell" would return a value of *false*. The subsequent conditional limitations of the claims are directed to processing only for a return value of *true*.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-35 were rejected as being clearly anticipated by Cobb. Applicant respectfully points out that Cobb teaches determining if a windowed area is equivalent to a previously corrected area and, if so, **reusing the previously determined corrections** for the windowed area (see Cobb, page 8, second paragraph).

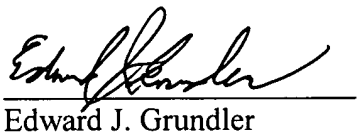
In contrast, the present invention determines if the target cell is similar to a preceding cell for which there exists a previously calculated solution and, if so, using the previously calculated solution as a **starting point for the correction process** (see FIG. 7 and page 12, lines 20-22 of the instant application). This is beneficial because it provides a starting point to the correction process for target cells that are similar but not necessarily equivalent to the preceding cell, thereby reducing the computation time for the correction process. Cobb, in fact, teaches away from the present invention by reusing the previously determined corrections and not using the previously calculated solution as a starting point for the correction process.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 31-33 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-10, which depend upon claim 1, claims 12-20, which depend upon claim 11, claims 22-30, which depend upon claim 21, and claims 34-35, which depend upon claim 33, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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